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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for Mr. Rudy Rasseom, Mr. Robert Mantal, and Ms. Connie Freeman; Staff Workers of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate

STAT [] OCI and I briefed three Senate staff members prior to their three week trip to South Asia. The briefing took place in the committee hearing room in the Dirksen building and lasted about two hours. [] of the DDO was also present. STAT

STAT After [] commented on the current political situation in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, I followed with an assessment of economic conditions. In the questions that followed it became apparent that each had specific areas of interest. Mr. Rasseom was particularly interested in the problem of foodgrain storage in Bangladesh and India. I pointed out that is a chronic problem in South Asia and that the problem is greater now because stock levels are at record levels and that storage is more difficult during the monsoon season now underway. I cited a 1975 UN study that estimated losses of 10 million tons annually in India but emphasized that I had no details on how the study was conducted and could not judge its veracity. He thought the figure might be too low.

STAT Mr. Mantal's main interest was in the military area. He requested specific data on Pakistan's and India's Order of Battle and the names of the various service chiefs in each country. This information will be supplied by [] STAT [] if the proper security arrangements can be worked out. [] is to look into this. Ms. Freeman centered on India's family planning program. I noted the specific measures taken since last summer's emergency and noted the problems that confront Mrs. Gandhi if her emphasis in this area is sustained.

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The meeting went well, judging from the questions asked all three had done some homework and were generally informed about conditions in South Asia. Both Mr. Mantal and Ms. Freeman had previously visited the area.



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